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GRAVE ISSUE FOR GOVERNMENT

It is known behind the scenes along Parliament Hill that the wage increase demanded by the railway to the steadily rising cost of living in Canada but that this was in reality one of the other echoes heard here as a result of the general growing outcry across the country against the continuous upward movement of living costs with hints even whispered that recent by-election setbacks suffered by the Government and other uncomfortable developments being now more and more traceable to the feelings in the country on rising living costs.

With this in mind, veteran observers now hold that something concrete will be done by the government to help keep the price pressures under some sort of control. The latest move has been the appointment of a Royal Commission to continue the price probe started by a special committee of the House of Commons and it is understood here that this body will be a sort of "watchdog" on price movements, investigating anything which affects the cost of living index in the country where such inquiries are warranted. It could look into foodstuffs, books and shoes, steel, textiles, etc., if it should find it advisable under prevailing conditions. In addition, it is understood here that other moves may be in the making, including a possible return to some control measures possible temporary subsidies, and removal of special excise taxes on certain goods.

In any event, there is no doubt behind the scenes along Parliament Hill that the present pressure on prices is providing the gravest issue for the Government and the continuing advance in the cost of living index will bring action to prevent soaring prices from getting beyond control, especially since the general outcry against inaction by the authorities is recognized now beyond a shadow of a doubt.

CAMPAIGN FOR LEADERSHIP

In sharp contrast to earlier indications there are reports circulating now backstage in this capital that the race for leadership of the Liberal Party in succession to Premier King may turn out to be no runaway affair for External Affairs Minister Louis St. Laurent, though there seems to have been a widespread publicity campaign or wave of commentary showing such a "sure thing" ever since Premier King made his open statement that he was definitely retiring. When the Liberal Party meets in Ottawa next month there will be quite a fight for the leadership it is learned here.

Already it is known that the forces favoring St. Laurent are not certain of victory in the same manner as they appeared to be several weeks ago, though it is undoubtedly true that they are still confident of eventual victory. However, strange stories are now heard backstage here about a "dark horse" candidate getting solid backing; that a younger man than St. Laurent, who is 66, may be more inclined to get the job that one of two provincial premiers may be named as "surprise" candidates; that at least three members of the present cabinet are definitely going to allow their names to be put forth at the convention here.

MORE ICE CREAM

A good hot weather report is that the production of ice cream in Canada has been running so far ahead of last year, though other dairy output, such as creamery butter and cheddar cheese have been down. In fact, the Canadian government reports that 3,303,000 gallons of ice cream were produced here in June, against 2,855,000 in the similar month last year and in the first half of this year the output has totalled 11,019,000 gallons compared with 9,277,000 gallons the same period of 1947 for a gain of 18.8%. Creamery butter and cheddar cheese production

dropped 3.2% and 27.5% respectively in the first half of 1948.

PROJECTED EXPANSION

It is learned that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is planning to expand its internal services to reach Italy, Yugoslavia, Poland, and Belgium with careful study being made now of possible news broadcasting to Russia, though it is admitted that the problems involve the difficulty of obtaining reliable and competent personnel, together with finding out what the response to the service is in these countries. Nevertheless, the voice of Canada may go to these countries before long, it is hinted here.

COLLAPSE OF AGREEMENT

The virtual collapse of the international wheat agreement which was foreseen as a possibility when the U. S. Congress did not ratify it before adjourning in June is being interpreted here as not likely to lead to immediate effects of any drastic nature but as resulting in fluctuations of wheat prices in future, with stories heard that another attempt at a new agreement may be made later this year.

MINISTERS' IN OTTAWA

Though parliament is not in session now, yet members of the cabinet, in many cases appear to be obliged this summer either by their departmental work or the cabinet meetings to remain in or near this capital. Including Premier King, who is at nearby Kingsmere home. Others who have been busy here and observed to be in the Capital are Postmaster General Bertrand, External Affairs Minister St. Laurent, Agriculture Minister Gardiner, Finance Minister Abbott, Labor Minister Mitchell and others. Work rather than vacation seems to be the order of the day this summer.

SAID IN THE CAPITAL

"The hope of future peace lies not in what the Soviet Union says about us but in what the Soviet Union does to improve the welfare of its own people and work with other nations in the welfare of all," said Defence Minister Claxton.

"Between the rising costs of food clothing and fuel to heat our home I figure that my \$1 now buys 38 cents worth of foods," declared George Baxter, father of 17 children and who lives in the capital on earnings of \$185 a month.

"The Board feels that it would be in the public interest for the CBC to broadcast some speeches from those national conventions which are of outstanding importance because they are called to choose new national party leaders," remarked A. D. Duntou, Chairman, CBC, indicating it has been decided to broadcast the main proceedings of the national Liberal convention here in August.

"I don't feel that war is an immediate problem but it is definitely a problem of the next 10 or 15 years if we do not see understanding," stated CCF Leader M. J. Coldwell during an address here.

"In Canada our films are being seen non-theatrically by one million and theatrically by two million people," disclosed here Alan Field, of the National Film Board, reported.

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ing that "there were 200 film coun-
cils and libraries across Canada.

"Progress of Communism in any
section of the world affects the safety
of the whole," stressed Dr. Chen
Li-Fu, during a visit here, with this
distinguished visitor being recognized
as one of China's most powerful
right wing leader.

WEEKLY WIND-UP

There is a marked increase in the
consumption of beef by the average
Canadian and this may prove to be
one of the main reasons for failure
to fill the beef contract with the U-
nited Kingdom, it is hinted here.

Premier Mackenzie King did not
suggest \$50,000 annual salary for
future Prime Ministers of Canada
nor any other specific figure, in face
of reports about such supposed sug-
gestions.

The influx of U.S. tourists into
Canada so far this summer has been
so great that even officials here are
surprised, though rather pleased at
the growing sum of U.S. dollars
which is being left behind by these
visitors to help exchange problem.

The Government Printing Bureau
was exceptionally busy lately and it
is said in this capital that some
workers with overtime pay receiving
as high as \$150 a week on occasions
due to the amount of work, especially
in view of the shortage of staff in
certain operations.

An Indian Railway Mission has
indicated here that the quality of
railway equipment imported from

Canada during the war was highly
praiseworthy with now the aim be-
ing to make India self-sufficient in
this respect, though some imports
of this kind from Canada were possible.

Government scientists here comm-
ent very cautiously about stories on
rain making and suggest that before
any judgement is passed farmers
and others should await the results
of full-dress tests which the National
Research Council of Canada is
now undertaking to settle the issue
once and for all time, with these ex-
perts anticipating that it will take
about a year before final judgement
can be made on rain-making by arti-
ficial means, such as "seeding" the
clouds, these tests being looked upon
as "extremely important" by scient-
ists in the capital.



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